



THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT DALLAS

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DEPARTMENT OF COMPUTER SCIENCE

Dr. Nelly Bencomo
Dr. Peter Müller
Student Volunteer Co-chairs
ICSE 2012

February 20, 2012

Dear Dr. Bencomo and Dr. Müller:

This letter enthusiastically supports Mr. Aaron Tull's application for a student volunteer position at ICSE 2012. I've known Mr. Tull for almost two years, during which he had been completing his B.Sc. degree in Software Engineering. I've supervised several of his course projects including a survey report on software architecture (CS 4v95, Summer 2010), an architecture/design project on an agent-oriented game environment authoring system (CS 6362, Fall 2010), and an architecture/design project on my SimSYS research project, which is investigating a development platform for serious educational games (CS 6v81, Spring 2011). We've co-authored two papers (one conference, one workshop) - a remarkable achievement for someone so early in his research career. Mr. Tull completed his B.Sc. degree in December, 2011. He is now pursuing a M.Sc. degree; I'm supervising his thesis research project. Mr. Tull is currently exploring topics for his thesis in the area of agent-oriented, adaptable software architectures; he enjoys research and plans to pursue a Ph.D. in software engineering.

I'm an Associate Professor at The University of Texas at Dallas in the Department of Computer Science. My research focuses on model based software and system architecture using a variety of paradigms (e.g., component, aspect, product-line, agent) and engineering education. I have established an extensive publication record and am actively involved in the broader community, serving as a journal editor, editorial board member, reviewer, co-organizer of events, and program committee member. I'm co-organizing a tutorial and a workshop at ICSE 2012.

I believe Mr. Tull would be an excellent student volunteer for ICSE 2012, as his communication and organizational skills are excellent; he enjoys helping others:

Communication skills. Mr. Tull is highly proficient in English, his first language. He has demonstrated an ability to communicate and work effectively with a diverse, international research team. Mr. Tull has given formal presentations, lead highly interactive design review sessions, as well as chaired and participated in regular research meetings.

Organizational skills. Mr. Tull has excellent organizational skills. He demonstrated his ability to successfully manage course work for his B.Sc. degree, while working full time. He graduated in December 2011, Magna Cum Laude (GPA 3.8).



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Willingness to help others. Mr. Tull has enthusiastically helped other students on my research project and assisted me with tasks associated with an upcoming workshop. On my research project, Mr. Tull assisted team members by providing training on tools (e.g., configuration management, case, IDE); he also mentored students on fundamental topics (object-oriented analysis and design) and more advanced topics (application of design patterns). He was patient and carefully explained the material.

Mr. Tull recognizes the importance of ICSE in the software engineering community and plans to be an active, long-term participant. Last year Mr. Tull attended SEAMS 2011, co-located with ICSE 2011, where he had the opportunity to meet students, researchers, and practitioners in the international software engineering community and gain an understanding of how the ICSE conference is organized from a participant's point of view. Being a student volunteer would provide an opportunity for Mr. Tull to gain a deeper understanding of the conference organization and the community.

Given Mr. Tull's organizational skills, communication skills, and enthusiasm for helping others, I believe he would be an outstanding student volunteer for ICSE 2012.

Regards,

Kendra M.L. Cooper, Ph.D.
Associate Professor
Dept. of Computer Science
The University of Texas at Dallas